

## Missouri ACTE 2007 Teacher of the Year - Michele Ray



**Michele (Shellie) Ray**

It's hard to know where to begin describing all the ways Michele (Shellie) Ray, the Marketing/Business Educator at Blue Springs South High School (BSSHS), deserves the Missouri ACTE 2007 Teacher of the Year award. Her letters of recommendation were filled with wonderful comments about her achievements, as well as her personal influence on the writers' lives. Perhaps it's best to share a few:

From Charlie Belt, Assistant Principal at BSSHS: *"Shellie's work in the classroom is exemplary; she engages her students with challenging lessons and hands-on learning activities. Shellie's personality enables her to make relational connections with her students very easily. Shellie has always gone above and beyond in her involvement outside the classroom as well. She sponsors DECA at [BSSHS] and takes teams of students to regional and national competitions. Shellie also sponsors the Touch of Silver and the South Side Steppers dance teams. These extracurricular activities require many extra hours of work and commitment, of which Shellie gives willingly. ... She is a well-respected member of our faculty who is able to befriend and relate to all members of our staff, both certified and classified."*

From Ms. Jann Link, a parent: *"[Ms. Ray] presents professional problem solving, creative thinking and practical application to the students in the environment of a 'Business World' in marketing and inspires them to do their very best. ... She truly is teaching all her students the values of marketing in such a manner and with such professionalism that they will continue their desire to learn and become successful in this field. As a mother we must teach our children to fly on their own, as a teacher Ms. Ray is teaching our children to do the same ...."*

From Taylor Hill, a former student: *"Having known Shellie for over seven years I have had*

*the opportunity to be taught by her, work with her, and see her truly make a difference in the lives of others. Her outstanding and incomparable commitment to the students she interacts with sets her apart from any educator I have ever known.*

*"Aside from her dedication and commitment to her students, she exemplifies a willingness to go the extra mile for others. She is driven by the success of her students, not the comfort of job security. It is her passion for the successes of others that distinguishes her from any other educator in the field. It is rare to find a teacher that holds such passion, but it is even rarer to find one that upholds those same qualities while maintaining an energetic, exciting and still structured learning environment. ... Shellie has truly touched my life in more ways than one. She began as my marketing teacher, and she grew to be a true inspiration to the way I run my business, and the way I care for my family and friends."*

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From Keith Maxey, Principal at BSSHS: *"Shellie consistently works to enhance the Marketing program at [BSSHS]. [She] promotes interest in vocational programs at the local level in her work with area businesses. ... In addition, Shellie provides leadership at [BSSHS] developing the DECA program. She consistently has students*

*compete at the State and National level. In addition, she sponsors the dance team at school and is willing to take on a variety of tasks. Shellie is nominated yearly as a teacher of the year candidate and is truly an outstanding professional."*

Shellie became a DECA Professional member in 1986, a member of Missouri ACTE and MCEA in 1986, and a member of ACTE in 2004. As with her involvement with her students, Shellie has taken her membership in these organizations seriously and donated an enormous amount of time to them. She has served as MCEA Secretary, 1992-93; MEA Secretary, 1991-92; MEA Board Member, 1988-90; DECA Board Member, 2004-06; DECA Past President; and MCEA President-Elect, 2006-07.

We are very lucky to be able to count such a fine educator among our members and congratulate Shellie on her well-earned award.

# Missouri ACTE 2007 Outstanding Career and Technical Educator - Kelly Chapman

As Gary Bartle, Executive Director for the Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center puts it, "While Kelly will never draw attention to herself, she is effective in moving behind the scenes and will give the credit to those around her."

Even listing Kelly Chapman's job title, Vocational Resource Educator (VRE) and Counselor at the Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC), doesn't begin to tell what's really going on behind the scenes. While she was hired as VRE, budget cuts in the District left the position of Career Education Counselor vacant. Kelly saw an area where the students' needs were in jeopardy and she stepped up to fill the gap. She now works both full-time jobs and, according to her letters of endorsement, manages to perform each of the jobs' duties with great skill.

Kelly's nomination came with almost four pages of information relating to her "Professional Memberships and Activities, Professional Contributions, Education and Experience Background, and Civic/Community Involvement," which would be impossible to list here. She is not one of those volunteers who lends her name to a group, but doesn't lend her time. As the Director of LTCC Gail Holcomb says, "Kelly is an asset to any group effort. She is a good listener, provides good ideas, and knows how to put ideas into a meaningful communication package."

B.J. Stockton, who supervised Kelly during her tenure at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), adds his endorsement of her abilities when he says, "Kelly was one of the principal architects of the performance measures now used in Missouri under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998. ... Following the acceptance of Missouri's State plan, Ms. Chapman was instrumental in implementing all of the performance measures from the state perspective as well as providing technical assistance to local sub-recipients of these federal funds ... [she] demonstrated her ability to take highly complex material and present it to schools in a comprehensible, cogent and lucid fashion."

Laura Hendley, Director of the Sikeston Career and Technology Center told us that Kelly "creatively tackles any problem and does not quit

until she finds a workable solution." Although this skill has served her well professionally, it is perhaps most strongly demonstrated in her relation to her students. According to Ms. Hendley, Kelly "has provided dedicated support to students who need her services. No task is too challenging for her to tackle if it benefits her students. She has provided opportunity for students with little or no resources for cleanliness at home to have showers daily at her school. She has used her contacts with the community to help students seek and find employment. She has given her students money if needed, bought them clothing, washed their clothing and done what ever was needed to meet their individual needs."

Peggy Starnes, the parent of a student who was diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer while in college, credits Kelly with her son's ability to complete and pass his class. "Our family will always be indebted to Kelly for her compassion and willingness to work with our son, showing him dignity and respect through the most difficult time of his life."

It is apparent that Kelly has the skills, intelligence, grace, and talent needed to be named the Missouri ACTE 2007 Outstanding Career and Technical Educator.

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## Missouri ACTE 2007 Outstanding Teacher in Community Service - Craig Evans

A four-walled classroom is just not large enough to hold Craig Evans' enthusiasm for agriculture. As an Adult Agriculture Instructor at the Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC), Craig has worked both inside and outside the traditional bounds of the classroom to promote agriculture and its future.

As a member of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce, Craig helped organize the Farm Fest, a two-day farm show for farmers and agri-business. He also took part in the initial planning meeting for the America's Heartland Economic Partnership which helps finance small business start-ups in his local community.

The Laclede County Fair Board would surely be hurt if Craig were to ever curb his enthusiasm. He has helped to organize and supervise one of the largest youth events in the community, the Laclede County Fair, which has over 200 youth exhibitors each year. The highlight of the fair is the market animal "Sale of Champions" where over \$100,000 is returned to the youth of the community.

According to Glenn Raef, Laclede County Western District Commissioner and Fair Board President, "Craig is truly an asset to our agriculture community. [He] spends hours upon hours of his own time helping the kids of this community with their livestock project for the local fairs. ... Craig has a love for agriculture and for his community that goes beyond explaining. ... [He] focuses on the young people of this community because he knows the future of agriculture is at stake, and with his knowledge and his 'common sense' attitude this community would suffer greatly without him."

But Craig's focus on agriculture isn't targeted only to the youth of his community. Randy Gollither with MFA Agri Services says, "The agriculture industry in all aspects is rapidly changing. Therefore, it is a given that our local youth and adult educational programs thrive to keep agriculture a major part of our community. As the adult educator, Craig Evans is actively playing a beneficial role in the agriculture industry. [He] keeps our local agriculture leaders

and producers abreast on local and national agriculture events and issues. ... To promote agriculture further, [he] has evening educational meetings and activities allowing opportunities for producers that work on or off farm to participate. Another great benefit is the hands on experience that Craig brings to the producers, along with allowing the producers hands on experience with livestock or computer record keeping."

Warren Hoffman, a local farmer who has known Craig since he was a young boy in 4H says, "I have watched him grow up into a very outstanding person. ... Where will you find Craig? He will be helping someone by meeting their needs what ever it might be. ... He has helped to improve beef, dairy and swine operations on a one to one basis."

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*"He will work until he finds the answers to your problems and then will work with you to get it right."*

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If an evening class doesn't work for a producer or the producer's problem is specific to his farm, Craig makes the trip out to the farm to work, one-on-one, with the producer until, as Warren puts it "he finds the answers to your problems and then will work with you to get it right."

In addition to being a member of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce and the Laclede County Fair Board, Craig is also a member of the University of Missouri Extension Council through which he has hosted a number of workshops for kids in 4H. As an advisor to the Lebanon Ag Alumni, Craig has helped raise funds which provides over \$500 worth of support each year for the Lebanon FFA. He is a member of the Lebanon Education Foundation Grant Selection Committee and has assisted in the selection of worthy proposals for nearly \$40,000 in grant funds. He is a member of and President-Elect for the Tri-County Cattlemen's Association and has helped them raise over \$4,000 each year, with 100% of the funds going to scholarships for college-bound students.

In 2004, Craig received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce and a Teacher Appreciation Award from the Lebanon Agriculture Department. We are pleased to name Craig Evans as the 2007 Missouri ACTE Outstanding Teacher in Community Service.

## 2007 Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher - Stanley Green



Although Stan Green, Lebanon Technology & Career Center (LTCC) Machine Tool Instructor, has not been in the field of education for long, his impact is already being felt by both the students he has taught and the staff he

encounters. Steve Rhoads, Stan's former teacher and Adult Education Director at LTCC says it best when he says, "Stan is willing to go the extra mile to benefit students."

When it became apparent that his students were losing valuable instruction time by waiting for a ride, Stan voluntarily became a licensed school bus driver so he could transport his students to the Ozarks Technical College's lab. And, he has employed that "hidden talent" to assist the lead advisor by transporting students to SkillsUSA activities and contests.

But his talents are by no means limited to driving. He continually looks for new ways to teach, recognizing that not all students respond to one method of instruction. He is a strong supporter of MAX teaching and, according to Rhoads, "has paved the

way here at [LTCC] in adopting MAX teaching in his manufacturing program. He has also been a leader to other faculty members by modeling MAX teaching strategies to them."

As a further testament to his belief in his student's education, when Stan realized he needed to improve some of his own manufacturing skills, he enrolled in welding and CNC programming training. Again, this was all in an effort to put his students and their needs first.

We are not the first to recognize Stan's talents. He was the recipient of the SkillsUSA Mid-America Outstanding Chapter Lead Advisor in October, 2004 and the SkillsUSA Missouri Leadership Conference Outstanding Chapter Lead Advisor in September, 2006.

Stan has been a member of Missouri ACTE, MTTA, MSTTA and a Professional Member of SkillsUSA since August, 2002; as well as a member of ACTE since August, 2003.

While Stan's career as an educator will obviously be bright, the future for his students will be even brighter having had the distinct advantage of an educator who continues to "think outside the box," improve his own skills, and share those skills with students and staff. Congratulations, Stan, for a well-deserved award.

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## Diversity Action Award - Missouri School Counselor's Association

The Missouri School Counselor's Association (MSCA) has worked diligently to promote diversity. Its internal structure includes a Diversity Chair in each of its 12 district organizations throughout the state who provides information and serves as a resource for their District and others. The State Diversity Chairperson meets with the District Diversity Chairs where the team discusses diversity issues, shares event ideas and successes, and plans a curriculum for the Fall Conference. At the Fall Conference, counselors gather at the "Bring 'N' Sling" to exchange successful diversity activities, and brainstorm about future District plans. In addition, many MSCA members were involved in writing a new, comprehensive guidance curriculum which has



already been adopted by many school districts in Missouri. Congratulations to our hardworking counselors!



## Certificate of Appreciation - Ron Tierney

Ron Tierney is lead instructor at the St. Louis Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Program (CJAP) and, according to Mark Fuchs, Coordinator, CJAP, "there is no one who has more patience and diligence dealing with students on a one-on-one basis than he."

James Duane, Director of Workforce Development for RCEW echoes that sentiment when he writes, "Ron has demonstrated the extra effort to assist those individuals who have had a difficult time in school. A lot of people might just skip over these struggling students. Ron finds satisfaction in finding ways to help students through their situations."

Ron continually tries to improve the educational environment for both student and staff. John S. Gaal, Ed.D., Director of Training and Workforce Development for the Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis, AFL-CIO, says, "To be sure, Ron single-handedly transformed the Carpentry Trade & Technical workshops - at the past two summer

conferences - into the highest quality professional development in the 20+ years of my attendance. Mr. Tierney's dedication to continuous improvement is just one aspect of his leadership style that has benefited the St. Louis CJAP over the past decade. More importantly, his willingness to share best practices with other industry professionals is not only a sign of confidence but a testament to his commitment to improving training and employability for both secondary and post-secondary CTE students."

In large part, Mr. Fuchs credits Ron's efforts with the successful working relationships JCAP shares with St. Louis Community College, Jefferson College, the Regional Center for Education and Work (RCEW) and ACT.

For his dedication to his students, his craft, his fellow instructors and the industry as a whole, Missouri ACTE is proud to provide its Certificate of Appreciation to Ron Tierney.

## Certificate of Appreciation - Betty Norman

Betty Norman, a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Career Counselor for the Lake Ozark Employment Services (LOES), has been an invaluable asset to the Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC). Since the VF Jeanswear (Lee) Company closed in Lebanon three years ago and left over 800 people unemployed, Betty has worked diligently to help these adults receive training for new careers.

Whether it was help with tuition, child care, gas, clothing or medical care, Betty has worked with LOES and the WIA to fill the needs of "her" students. These efforts have resulted in almost \$130,000 being given to help 57 students over the last four years. The recipients of these funds have been enrolled in TLCC's Practical Nursing, Welding, Machining, Early Childhood Education, Collision Repair, Automotive, and/or Business Technology programs.

In addition to working with adults, Betty has focused her energy on the youth. Through her strong ties to the business community, Betty has been able to pair eligible students with an appropriate job, resulting in a tremendous benefit to both the student and the business.

If a student is struggling to make the grade or having difficulty keeping up, Betty has arranged for tutors to help these students keep moving toward their educational goals.

As Peggy Starnes, a Workforce Development Specialist has said of Betty, "She's helped others with kind words and deeds in her profession through personally counseling them to guide them in a career or educational path. She has worked with those who have been downsized, laid off, and some that the system has just forgotten."

Betty is a well-deserving recipient of Missouri ACTE's Certificate of Appreciation.

## Certificate of Appreciation - Bob Forsee

Bob Forsee's dedication to the Supermarket Careers program at the Rolla Technical Institute (RTI) began long before he retired as a Graphic Arts teacher and has carried over into his retirement. "Mr. Forsee sees these children with disabilities through the eyes of an artist," wrote Helen Adams Richardson, Supermarket Careers Coordinator/Instructor. "Through the eyes of an artist, the uniqueness of each individual is recognized, appreciated, and celebrated. When Mr. Forsee worked at R.T.I. he would stop by the Supermarket usually two times a day for a soda or juice and during each visit he would talk with the students even if he was in a hurry. He learned all of their names and something specific about them so that he could talk to them and make them feel as special as they are. No matter what they were doing, he would show interest, genuine interest. The students respect Bob so much that one of the boys bought him a soda one day with his lunch money.

Buying "Bob Hope" as they called him, a soda was more important than eating lunch. Often when he would come into the store you would see a crowd of students around him."

You might imagine that retirement and a round trip of almost 200 miles would slow down Bob's commitment to these students. You would be wrong. Bob still takes all the pictures, designs the format and produces the annual video highlighting the year's Supermarket Careers' activities for the enjoyment of the students, their parents, employers, RTI faculty, school board members and school district administrators.

The Missouri ACTE Certificate of Appreciation is a natural fit for this man who, according to Dr. Janece Martin, Director of Vocational Programming for the Rolla Public Schools, "helps these unique students to see themselves in a very positive venue, which is a first time experience for many of them."